Out of 100,000 GIS sites worldwide, State History's archaeology database has won a "Special Achievement in GIS" award from ESRI, a developer of GIS software.

This innovative archaeology database:

- Was conceived and overseen by Kristen Jensen, State History's database manager.
- Uses Geographic Information System technology.
- Currently contains info on 26,337 archaeological projects and 56,105 sites.
- Makes the state's archaeological inventory easily accessible to archaeology professionals.
- Saves money for the state and for developers.
- Was developed by State History, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center, and ESRI, with major support from the BLM.

The new archaeology database integrates data from paper documents, traditional text-based information, geospatial information, and complex business process to transform data into knowledge and facilitate better decisions.

Under U.S. and Utah cultural resource laws, developers of projects on public lands such as oil and gas wells, roads, pipelines, etc. must "take into account" significant historical and archaeological sites. In order to do this, they must research what information exists on such sites. State History manages a statewide inventory of archaeological sites and investigations and historic buildings. But research of these paper files is tedious, and must be done in person.

The database will let consultants and agencies get current, accurate, and relevant information from their desks via a secure Internet application. Development projects can proceed faster and less expensively. At the same time, improved access will mean better protection for cultural resources.

It's a win-win solution. State History is pleased to provide this service for its customers. And we're proud of Kristen Jensen's ground-breaking work in creating this award-winning database!

